Second Steel Plant in Orissa

397. SHRI BAIKUNTHNATH SAHU: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken any decision to set up the second steel plant at Daitari in Orissa.

(b) whether the cost has been revised;

(c) if so, the revised estimated cost of the project; and

(d) the progress made in the establishment of the steel plant there?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI MAKHAN LAL FOTEDAR): (a) Government have not taken any investment decision for setting up a steel plant at Daitari in Orissa;

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

(d) Only some preliminary works have been undertaken so far.

Strengthening of Public Distribution System in tribal areas

398. SHRI JAGADISH JANI: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a need to strengthen the Public Distribution System in the tribal areas;

(b) if so, the steps taken by Government in this regard; and

(c) the number of fair price shops opened in the tribal areas in different States?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI D. L. BAITHA): (a) and (b) The States and UTs have been advised from time to time on the need to strengthen the P.D.S. in general and particularly in tribal areas. They have been advised that in areas which cannot be covered by static fair price shops, mobile vans may be introduced to cover the consumers residing in tribal areas etc. It was also suggested that sales centres could be opened to provide essential commodities at fixed prices at the weekly haats in such areas.

The Central Government is also operating a plan scheme to provide financial assistance to States/UTs for purchase of mobile vans for supply of essential commodities in tribal areas, remote, far-flung desert and inaccessible areas.

The Government has also launched a scheme for supply of concessional food-grains to the people in the ITDP areas at specially subsidised rates (lower than the general PDS rates) in November 1985. The total population, including non-tribals living in all 181 ITDP areas and the entire population of six tribal majority States/UTs, viz., Arunachal Pradesh Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Lakshdweep: are covered under the scheme.

(c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House

Integrated Cattle Development Projects with Swis Assistance

399. SHRI JAGADISH JAIN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are implementing some Integrated Cattle Development Projects with Swiss asistance;

(b) if so the number of such projects under implementation in different areas in Orissa; and

(c) the details of the Swiss aid made available for those projects so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE